

Tel  
Ambleside  
2168

The Charlotte Mason College,  
Ambleside,  
Westmorland.

item 316

21st June, 1956

Dear

The Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation have asked me to convey to you with very great regret the decision which has been forced upon them to raise the College fees next term owing to the greatly increased cost of living and the considerable rise in the Burnham Scale of lecturers' salaries which latter is to take effect from October 1st of this year.

The new fees will be £70. per term.

The Council is aware, of course, that it is usual to give a term's notification of increase in fees but you will have seen in the press that the announcement of the proposed steep rise in the scale of salaries has been made since Easter. It has consequently been impossible to give the customary notification.

In a case of real hardship (of which proof should be offered) the Council would be prepared to remit a portion of the increase. The situation could also be reviewed in the light of the possibility of a loan from one of the Loan Funds which exist for the purpose of helping girls to be trained for a career.

May I point out to you that although an increase of fees is now necessary, the financial position of your daughter, when she is qualified, will be greatly strengthened by the increase in the Burnham Scale of salaries. What is lost now will very quickly be regained.

I would like to add that I share the deep regret of the Council in having to make this increase.

Yours sincerely,

MARY HARDCASTLE

Principal

Tel.  
Ambleside  
2 1 6 8

The Charlotte Mason College,  
Ambleside,  
Westmorland.

Sept 21.6

MH/JMV.

18th September, 1957.

Dear

I am enclosing a copy of the Ministry's Report which no doubt you would like to consider before the meeting on Monday next.

There are two main considerations, the first is finance and the other is staffing. Under these headings there is much detail to be considered and I am enclosing a draft copy of the balance sheet.

As you will see we are in quite a good position at the moment as we are feeling the advantage of the raising of the fees in September, 1956. I am afraid that the current year will not be so good, in fact the finances do not promise to be at all easy. We have to take three students less because of accommodation. You may remember that last year we fitted in seven more students in order to adjust the numbers in the years as there had been only eight third year students the year before. We were able to do this because of the additional accommodation in the Greenbank Cottages but we were over-full.

This year we are taking three less students and would have taken even fewer but for two reasons, one being that I had a communication from the Ministry asking me to squeeze in as many students as I could! Secondly the Fairfield numbers will be very much down. This is due to a number of reasons, instead of £21,406 the fees for the past year, we only expect to receive something like £20,600 this coming year. The position may improve during the year but nevertheless it is a serious thing. We have unfortunately lost three children through the incident at Hill Top last term and also we had a large number of girls due to leave from our top form. Last Christmas we had no less than five girls on the waiting list for Hill Top and the parents had to send them elsewhere. The numbers do fluctuate from time to time.

Expenses are going up all the time. The new postage rates

WPA CMC 316

will make a great deal of difference to the P.U.S. and to us. The National Health contribution rates have gone up and the new Laboratory will cost all that much more. Inflation particularly hits an independent institution.

Staffing is a major problem. Full employment means it is exceedingly difficult to get staff. We advertised three times for a graduate teacher for the School on Full Burnham Scale salary and we had one answer. The supply of local women for our household needs is more difficult to get owing to the fact that a small factory has been established in Ambleside. The question of the payment of staff is also a major one. Last year the Education Lecturer was doing a course in Manchester which meant she could not give us much time and that fell rather heavily on me. All this will need our careful attention.

Nevertheless we have a full College with some good students and the community is thriving in all the important ways. The Report deals very fully with the accommodation and I need say nothing more about that here.

I will try to draw up a simple form of agenda which will cover all these points.

Yours sincerely,

Principal.

Mrs.H.C. Walton,  
"Galleons",  
Higher Lane,  
MUMBLES, Swansea.



101  
Amble-side  
2168

# FEE LETTER 13 cmc316  
The Charlotte Mason College,  
Amble-side,  
Westmorland

20th February, 1958.

Dear

It is with much regret that the Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation feel obliged to raise the College fees to £256. per annum (£86. per term) from September, 1958.

It is not only because salaries are going up with the additions towards equal pay, but in order to meet the Ministry of Education requirements we have had to embark on certain improvements which have involved both capital expenditure and additions to the running expenses of the College.

It is a matter of concern to the College that we have to make this addition to our finances in order to make both ends meet. We are sure you will appreciate however that even with this increase the fees are very low compared with other Colleges, and those students who are receiving financial help from their local Authority should receive additional aid from that source. The sum of £86. per term is divided equally into £43. board fees and £43. tuition fees.

Yours sincerely,

\* Note:- copy put in Burnett's file - (1st File in Cabinet)

Copy

M.H.H.

Apr 1953

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

(1953)

Dear Miss Livingston

You will remember that when you sent me, in January, your resignation from the Head-mistress-ship of the Practising School (Senior department), I acknowledged your letter at once, unofficially, & told you I would put it before the next meeting of the Charlotte Mason Foundation.

That meeting was last Wed. March 20<sup>th</sup> when your letter of resignation was read to the members of the Foundation.

I am now writing officially, and on behalf of the Foundation to say that we accept your resignation in these ways. We accept it with regret that you feel the time has come that you should leave us; we accept

24p20m36

it with much gratitude for all  
the years you have given us  
for the splendid work you have  
done; and we accept it wishing  
you happiness and success  
in all your future work.

I am sorry you should have  
had to wait so long for the  
official reply to your letter, but  
I expect you know that at the  
moment, the Charlotte Mason  
Foundation normally meets  
only twice a year.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Walton

Chairman

Charlotte Mason Foundation



15 June 1966  
MH/ST.

PERSONAL

17th May, 1958.

A. S. Miles Davies, Esq., C.B.,  
Ministry of Education,  
Teachers' Branch,  
36-38 Berkeley Square,  
London, W.1.

Dear Mr. Miles Davies,

The Governing Body of this College is giving serious consideration to the future of the College and it is very necessary that this should be done in view of the compulsory three year course which we hope will be implemented in 1960. Mrs. Walton, the Chairman of the Governing Body would much appreciate it if you were able to grant us a personal interview. There are a number of problems which face us and as a sub-committee of the Governing Body is meeting in early July to consider these points, it is important that we should have some contact with the Ministry before then.

We hesitate to make the following suggestion as it is such short notice but it so happens that both Mrs. Walton and I have to be in London this next week and we wonder if by any chance it would be possible to have an appointment sometime on either Wednesday May 21st or Thursday May 22nd before 4 p.m. We will make any time possible but if there is any chance, Wednesday morning is not quite so convenient.

We realise, of course, that this suggestion is probably quite impossible but we venture to make it as we both live so far from London. We would have written before but I have only just heard from Miss H.C. Rankin H.M.I. that you are the person we should approach.

I will ring up on Monday afternoon to ask your secretary if there is any possibility of an arrangement being made. If not, we must hope for an appointment later on.

Yours sincerely,

Principal

Confidential-

26ptcm0316  
Ge W Rankin

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1958

Dear Min Rankin.

You will probably have heard from Min Handcastle that we showed to his Ministry to see the film on Wednesday last.

We were very disappointed not to see also the film on the film which had promised us an appointment, instead of the film which, when we were told, was away ill.

We saw Min Bell together with Min Gaylin. They were very kind and frank, but on situation as



to the future of the College before their  
 laid however feel that both parties  
 were rather at a disadvantage  
 because they had told us when we  
 arrived that Mr. Sloman was with  
 his Secretary would join us "in  
 a few minutes". After waiting - for  
 an hour & a half - that he would  
 appear at any moment, we had  
 to leave without seeing him at all.  
 I appreciate that this situation was  
 just as difficult for him Bell &  
 Mr. Gaylin - as for us!

Though our conversation may  
 have served to clear some  
 I mind ~~and then~~ (next p.)

It may be a useful preliminary, I frankly do not feel that Mrs Bell has much sympathy for what the College is trying to do, or any understanding of her contribution we are still able to make to Education as a whole. Indeed, I could not help wondering if she had ever heard of Charlotte Mason or knew anything of her philosophy!

We felt they were hearing, it to be fair, they probably couldn't do anything else in her circumstances, & for this reason we were disappointed not to see someone in higher authority. I felt we were well meaning regarded as something, ~~that~~ <sup>well meaning</sup> a little.

precious - a closed community, almost -  
who had no knowledge of his outside  
world or its present day requirements,  
which, as I am sure you will agree,  
is not a true picture of an situation.  
I trust no final decision will result  
from this interview & that we may  
perhaps be given another opportunity  
for seeing him Miles traces.

I gather that you are shortly  
going to Antibeside & I should be so  
gratified if you would have a  
talk with Miss Handcock about  
this.

I have looked out your last letter  
to me, which after our meeting  
in London. I am sending this



ibp5mcs16

to his address & gave me then.  
It looks horrible, like a private  
address. If it is, I hope you  
will forgive this intrusion on  
your time & privacy.

I hope you are well & that  
we may have an opportunity  
of meeting again.

Yours sincerely,

Geraldine Walter

P.S. I should add that we did realize  
from his conversation that his  
position is not a hopeful one as  
his tendency seems to be towards  
larger & larger college units.  
w.g.w.

17/6/68 (1)

P.S. Hardy  
Wicks for  
you  
Wick  
Wick  
found  
here  
where  
we  
dined

Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> June. 1968.

Cambridge.

Barling Hardy.

Well - we do see  
life! I had more than an hour  
with Miss Skillicorn at Homebin  
this morning. She presented me  
with the enclosed literature  
which you may like to see.  
No hurry for its return - I'll for  
it in July when I come. The  
literature answers many of your  
questions, & we can discuss more  
when I come because I've no time  
to write a full report which could  
fill pages & pages & you won't want  
to read it! When I left at 11.45  
Conkaway took me straight into  
the town when I got a cheap taxi

pad & a large envelope.

Miss S. is a famed old girl — a great character I should think, who one could have been kinder more friendly & forthcoming.

The only point on which I knew a complete blank was the new 3<sup>rd</sup> year course. When I asked about it she said "Secret negotiations were going on within the University & ~~she~~ I couldn't tell you really what the result will be." I noticed she had gone a deep flush suddenly (the old "line of life") so I gathered she felt she had already said too much & I changed the subject.

The whole set up is quite fantastic — her realisation of all her misdeeds in every way.



(2-)

27p30mc316

e.g. Mrs W. timidly, feeling her way while balancing an egg-shell china coffee cup of rare design. "How lovely your pygmaeums are" Mrs S. kindly surveyed a vast expanse of pygmaeum arrangement of same. "Oh yes we have a whole field of them & flowers for decorations round the rooms"! Mrs W. casting envious eyes on acres & acres of close-crop velvety lawns. Miss S. interpreting his look, "Yes we have a very clever head gardener. She is quite a young woman for S - agricultural college & she has 6 men under her whom she manages - just like that" - a modest flattening up gesture. (A good thing I was by myself - otherwise I should have been

if p4 cmc 16

probably caught your eye & puzzled.  
She has invited me to go again  
next time I'm here to see more  
& especially his jeans trousers & any  
thing else. In appearance she's  
rather like a benevolent boar  
to look at - short & sturdy with  
large bespectacled eyes & over-  
teeth & you'd think definitely  
elderly, but she moves very  
fast when showing & round  
formed & gentle hand work to keep  
up. But I liked her so much  
she has a nice sense of  
humour & appreciates a mild dig!  
I should think she's very shrewd  
indeed. Her remarks about how  
her "students" would be at all  
my next week at the May Ball  
showed she was under no delusions.



(3)

17p5ome316

Now for some hard facts.

They are over 300 students.

They can take their pick. I think she said it was something like 1 in 10 <sup>of the</sup> applicants.

Those who come have an ~~2~~ - ~~four~~ rather 3 subjects at A-level & have had 2 years in VI form. They have complete freedom for h.e. & A's.

The grant for Min. of Ed. is per capita for tuition & maintenance assessed on family income.

She ranges from Lord Cranbrook's daughter to "some are living with an old granmie" - grant accordingly. Roughly it works out that 1 in 10 students share a study bedroom. There is a large house



over the way - ordinary residential  
 house where the rooms are large  
 & they share <sup>in 1<sup>st</sup> year</sup> in the Humanities building  
 (which was built as Cavendish  
 College for men with all the small  
 study bedrooms already for them)  
 the students each have a single  
 bedroom - the bookcase & writing  
 desk with drawers are on pattern.  
 Each room has radiator & down  
 bed, easy chair <sup>desk chair</sup> & food locker in  
 cupboard. Bathrooms are all  
 opp. side of corridor with shower  
 rooms & basin rooms - (2 students  
 to a basin!) Ironing rooms,  
 airing & drying rooms (1 each of  
 each, laid out as above!).  
 She says (what we feel) that  
 the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> years are a policy  
 of perfection this great university

(4)

17p7me3/6

show willing to do what you can!  
e.g. Min. of Ed. want them to spend  
£150,000 on a new science block  
they have no intention of doing so!  
so it looks rather like "the more you  
do - the more you may do!"

The trustees meet once a month  
- a financial committee - & he  
showed me last month's accounts.  
They turn over at roughly £100,000<sup>big</sup>  
a month. I didn't have time to  
take in very thing <sup>of a sheet</sup> as she was  
not going to allow me a close  
personal, naturally, but what pleased  
me with every in the credit side  
was his long list of stocks &  
shares & holdings in various  
Companies of reputed wealth!

The students are pretty free -  
 boyfriends allowed in the library  
 gorgeously appointed common room.  
 They are allowed out till 10:30 p.m.  
 every night - after that special  
 events within reason, & out  
 all night in May week - see  
 above. For freedom of choice in  
 subjects & courses see literature.  
 I've got down in my pencil notes  
 that <sup>full</sup> fees are £300 per. an. but  
 this doesn't seem to tie up  
 with the prospect, but I've not  
 ready it things very carefully,  
 I am a bit muzzy after a long  
 afternoon in the sun watching  
 the May Races. Incidentally I  
 ran into Sheila Barwell (McVane)  
 in Billion Corner but we only had



(5)

7p9cmc316

time for a short chat as we had  
to get back & change for a party.  
So nice to see her & she was so  
friendly - had her father & 3 older  
children with her.

Incidentally Miss S. told me if  
you want to build you have to  
cost for \$1,000 per place. i.e. a  
new block to house 50 students  
is roughly \$50,000. Nic Hingfat.  
Father for books & people who  
dined with etc. the last few  
nights, that Homer Lin is principally  
with Hingfat & & company after,  
& they all seemed to have met  
& known Miss S. who is on all  
kinds of things. They have one  
of the best collections of modern

pictures in Camb. & Mrs S. told  
 me she had bought a new one  
 only yesterday. The students were  
 doing exams so I only saw a few  
 & thought they looked so nice. She  
 tells me they are a wealthy college  
 & I think it was between £1 & 2,000  
 spent on new books for their library  
 every year! She has no staffing  
 difficulties on her Academic side -  
 Pelham of course but according to  
 her, people clamour to come! The  
 chef has been there for ages  
 & of course they have periodic  
 difficulties with domestic staff  
 because with an old college  
 needing them - well you can  
 imagine the competition.  
 She did say one very interesting

(6)

ifplome 3/6

since y income was what she  
called "on furnishing hotel business"  
which she said was an entirely  
to being in Cambridge & people  
always holding Conference every  
vac.

I quite see why Miss B. G. Hingst  
we ought to see Hamilton!!! As far  
as we (Cambridge) go it's quite the  
least helpful one because obviously,  
there is no struggle anywhere.  
Their high standards of maintenance  
& conditions - I won't bore y with  
descriptions of their lecture room  
equipment etc. the spaciousness  
& entire set-up proclaims  
wealth & favour & no worries  
at all. In some ways I came away,



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leisure, depressed — it was all too perfect & ideal. But she was so friendly & nice & I feel I really shall go back & see her blooming jeans nurses. I was very careful in what I said about ~~her~~ us, & she did most of his talking & was obviously pleased to be able to show us such a good show. But she did imply that his kind of Ed. would wear away, & rather they could lay hands on for many years yet, & again I felt if only we can weather his next 2 yrs for some money some law, with some things in his end.

I wouldn't have missed it for worlds but I don't think I'm doing any good! Hope this isn't too long boring. Much love Q.



VINCENT KNOWLES, M.A.  
Registrar

VK/MH

FROM

THE REGISTRAR,  
THE UNIVERSITY,  
MANCHESTER, 13

Telephone: ARDwick 3333

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

June 19th, 1958.

Dear Miss Hardcastle,

You will have seen references in the press to the Ministry of Education's proposals for expanding training colleges and their request for speedy action. It seems to us in Manchester that now that this has been made public, it is time for the Charlotte Mason College to take appropriate action. Dr. Wiseman and I would suggest that the Governing Body should consider an immediate application to the Local Education Authority to see what the possibilities are of becoming grant-aided. This line of action, if I remember rightly, was the sort of thing the Ministry put before you on your visit to London. I know that Mrs. Walton and yourself have reservations and the Council may very well have them too, but I think the issue is so important that it ought to be raised without delay and the College might be prejudiced in any future negotiations if this were not done.

If this suggestion were to meet with the approval of the Governors and if - to consider the worst possibility - the L.E.A. refused to help, then I think the Ministry might well be approached again. In those circumstances, the Ministry would surely find it more difficult to refuse a request for voluntary status, which might mean the death sentence for one college whilst all others were given assistance.

Please regard this letter as very confidential though of course I should naturally wish you to show it to Mrs. Walton.

We perhaps ought to call a meeting of the Council at Ambleside on the date fixed for the Sub-committee. The matter is so important, I feel, that it cannot brook delay.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Mary Hardcastle,  
Principal,  
Charlotte Mason College,  
AMBLESIDE, Westmorland.

*Vincent Knowles*

59cmc316  
COPY

From The Registrar  
The University  
Manchester  
June 19th 1958

Personal and Confidential

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Yours sincerely

Vincent Kowles

Miss Mary Hardcastle,  
Principal,  
Charlotte Mason College,  
Ambleside, Westmorland.



210plcmc316

GALLEONS,  
HIGHER LANE,  
MUMBLES, SWANSEA.  
SWANSEA 68443.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1968.

Barling Hardy.

Here is a copy for you  
of his letter I sent. I've put in all  
your points & added a few of my  
own. Also I made one or two alterations  
e.g. bearing in mind his "very  
confidential" nature of V.K.'s letter. I  
put "it is obvious" instead of "I have  
been told". In any case, it should  
be obvious to any one with  $\frac{1}{2}$  an eye!

I have sent one to V.K. & also  
a covering letter thanking him for  
his to you & me & for his help.  
I had a very satisfactory chat to him

110p20me316

on his phone yesterday morning.  
I think we are more than lucky that  
he is who reps. Manchester on an  
e.m.f. He is invaluable.

He also very much approves of your  
having an "it" his second chair with  
Mr. Clarke. I feel this is most important.

The first question every one will want  
to ask is, what does it involve?

Conkernay is taking some of his  
letters for me & I'm doing some  
with carbon paper & we have to get  
them all with him late afternoon  
just today & hope most people will get  
them tomorrow by 2<sup>nd</sup> post.

I wish you hadn't got to do a  
memorandum on top of everything

else, but I do not think any one  
else can do it. You are the only  
person who knows the whole thing  
from A-Z. But I am worried about  
you & the phantoms burden you are  
carrying with all this awful  
uncertainty & the daily frustrations  
& worries. I only wish I could do  
more to help you. Please make  
it as short as possible & try not  
to burn too much oil! Taking a  
general view, I honestly believe  
the situation is more hopeful  
than in March, but we have  
a very tricky passage before us  
& can't afford to put a foot wrong  
now. I think this may well be the



210p4cmc3/6

final shower in the storm clouds  
may clear considerably after this.  
It's the uncertainty that is so  
wearing for you & so worrying.  
But I think we can reasonably  
hope that quite soon we'll either  
know that we must close down,  
or else we shall get some help.  
& things will go on.

I am very inarticulate &  
stupid, but I am concerned  
for you in your present situation  
& I think about you a great deal  
trying to see how we can help.

Very much love Handwerker  
that too much and - enjoy it, if  
in pleasure. Go

22 June 1956.

21 June 316  
Galleons,  
Higher Lane,  
Mumbles,  
Swansea.  
Swansea 68443.

Dear Miss Handcastle.

After a visit to the Ministry of Education last month, and having received strong representation from Manchester University, I am persuaded that it is right to call an Emergency Meeting of the Charlotte Mason Foundation in Ambleside at 10 a.m. on July 9th, when the sub-committee is due to meet there in any case.

The Ministry has now made public their proposals for expanding Teachers' Training at Colleges to meet the serious shortage of teachers which is expected during the next ten years or so. (Vide Sunday Times of 15 June, also other papers during this week).

The matter is extremely urgent as it is obvious that the College might be prejudiced in any future negotiations if we did not explore the situation now, and if possible take action. You will remember that at the last meeting I spoke of my anxiety as to the future of the College & as to how long we could continue without some form of financial help.

I am trying to discover in private conversations what it would involve if we approached the Local Education Authority. From the point of view of the student intake the matter is also very urgent as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find well qualified, or even reasonably qualified, students who are ready and willing to pay the fees. The staffing condition is also acute and especially with regard to the Practising School.

So much has happened since C.M.F. met in March that I feel it is most important that all our problems should be reviewed now, unhurriedly & on the spot. We cannot possibly afford to wait until our November meeting.

I have asked Miss Handcastle to produce a memorandum, which will show you how urgent the situation has become, & upon which we can base our agenda.

I realise that this is short notice & that a journey to Ambleside may not be convenient, but we have reached a crucial point in the history of the College and School and the problems confronting us are ones which require the utmost help from every member of the Foundation. If it is impossible for you to come to the meeting, would you please be kind enough to send me your comments, preferably here by July 4th, or else to me at College by July 5th.

Yours sincerely,

Gertrude Waller.  
(Timman C.M.F.)